

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 /077 W

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R 141630Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7068

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COTONOU 0494

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, DM, VN

SUBJ: DAHOMEY AND NORTH VIET-NAM TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL

1. ON APRIL 11 THE OFFICIAL DAHOMEAN NEWSPAPER DAHO-EXPRESS ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF DAHOMEY AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM (DRV) HAD DECIDED ESTABLISH "DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL."

2. THIS MORNING (APRIL 14) A SIGNED ARTICLE IN THE DAHO-EXPRESS RATIONALIZES THE STEP ON THE BASIS THAT (A) IT IMPLEMENTS GOVERNMENT'S NON-ALIGNMENT POLICY, WHICH IS AIMED AT RECIPROCAL SPEV AND ADVANTAGE, AS WELL AS

CLABORATION WITH MARXIST-LENINIST COUNTRIES, (B) IT WILL TEND TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIALIST CAMP'S WAR AGAINST INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM, AND (C) "IT IS ALTOGETHER LOGICAL AND NORMAL THAT OUR COUNTRY HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS" WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXEMPLARY DRV PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIBERATED THEMSELVES FROM

IMPERIALISM BY FORCE OF ARMS.

3. OPINION OF FRENCH EMBASSY IS THAT DRV WILL HAVE
RESIDENT AMBASSADOR HERE.

4. COMMENT: OVER THE YEARS DAHOMEANS HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED
THAT SO FEW FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS HAVE ESTABLISHED RESIDENT
MISSIONS HERE (AT THE MOMENT THERE ARE ONLY TEN: FRANCE, FRG,
US, GHANA, NIGERIA, ZAIRE, NIGER, USSR, PRC AND
NORTH KOREA). WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENT MILITARY REGIME
IN DAHOMEY, WHICH IS NOT VERY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE MISSIONS OF
ANY OF THE FIRST SEVEN AFOREMENTIONED COUNTRIES, IS ACTIVELY
TRYING TO PERSUADE MORE "SOCIALIST" GOVERNMENTS (E.G. GDR,
GUIMYANW) CONROP, ALGERIA, SOMALIA) TO SET UP MISSIONS IN COTONOU.
FROM DRV POINT OF VIEW DAHOMEY COULD BE COVERED OCCASIONALLY
BY THEIR NEAREST AMBASSADOR (ALGIERS OR CONAKRY?). HOWEVER
A WORKING MISSION IN COTONOU MIGHT BE USEFUL SPRINGBOARD FOR
EXPANSION OF DRV DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE TO STILL OTHER STATES IN
THIS AREA. END COMMENT.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REPEAT SAIGON.

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